THE NEWS BULLETIN

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF CANADA

40 COLLEGE ST. TORONTO ONT.

VOL. 8 SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 1932 NO. 3

A FOCUS OF FORCES

The Institute on Economic and International Affairs held at Lake Couchiching was a focus of forces. Lineal descendant of an honorable line of summer schools and study conferences which yearly, for over a quarter of a century, had renewed the minds and quickened the spirits of Association leaders in Canada, it was an attempt by the National Council to give effect to mandates from world assemblies and the North American convention of Young Men's Christian Associations, held a year ago in Toronto and Cleveland, to maintain "an open platform for the public discussion of social and economic questions." It was also one step in the promotion of an Association curriculum of religious education planned to give adequate attention to the development of intelligent Christian citizenship. Various organizations interested in problems of the social order had formed in Toronto a Council of Progressive Agencies. One of their projects was to hold a summer school. When the plans for the Couchiching Institute came before them the possibilities of a cooperative venture were seen and individuals were appointed at the invitation of the Association Summer School Committee to counsel on program and promotion. A group of Canadians who had attended a conference on international relations in the United States were at the same time considering a similar enterprise for Canada. They too made the Couchiching Institute serve their purpose and gave their help. So the Institute was not merely an institute; it was also a project in cooperation, planned and promoted by representatives of a number of sympathetic groups and directed, by agreement, on behalf of all, by one of them, the Y.M.C A.

The attendance reflected the various interests concerned. While the most numerous group were the Y.M.C.A. secretaries they were less than a quarter of the total. Ministers, social workers, teachers, business men, Y.W.C.A. secretaries, students, writers, editors, farmers, lawyers, and married women (homemakers) made up the other three-fourths.

In giving reasons for attendance most of the members said they came for information, many because they also felt the Institute might help improve a social order with which they were not completely satisfied, and because of interest in the leaders and speakers. Many came to find an attractive vacation and to make new personal contacts, many to improve efficiency in their vocations, some to advocate a cause, some because of a religious interest, and some also because of interest in the method and procedure of conducting such a conference. And—rather significant—a number came to accompany friends; personal enthusiasm is effective.

Three main courses of study were offered during the Institute: The Present International Situation; The Present Economic Situation; the Philosophy of Social Reconstruction. The first was under the leadership of Professor N. A. M. MacKenzie, of the University of Toronto; the second was led by Dr. R. M. MacIver, of Columbia University, New York, and Professor J. F. Parkinson, of Toronto, in turn; and the third by Dr. John Line, of Victoria University, Toronto. Each lecture period was followed by a period of discussion. Interest never flagged. Sometimes it seemed as if the sparks would ignite something; but there were no explosions, even though occasionally verbal dynamite was dropped. This was certainly because such personal friendliness and goodwill had been evident from the very first afternoon when following an introductory session the members fraternized as the guests of the Institute at a tea on the lawn by the lake. The lectures and discussions occupied the mornings.

The afternoons were for recreation and for special round tables for those who wished them. Here the implications for programs of various groups could be studied. The Y.M.C.A. group met in such a round table every afternoon.

Then there were "Forums," special meetings to which the public were invited from the surrounding communities, and for which well known figures in Canadian public life had been secured as speakers. These brought fresh currents of thought and talk to the Institute.

The social life of the Institute was particularly happy. In addition to the natural attractions of the delightful surroundings, ever appealing in informal ways, evenings were organized for recreation in which everyone took part; folk dancing, music, camp fires, all contributed. Even the meals were good, and this always helps.

Each morning, before the lectures began, there was a chapel service for those who wished to attend. Sunday a memorable church service, under the stately trees, was addressed by Bishop Farthing, of Montreal.

"To promote insight into the significance of the present world crisis and some appreciation of social changes required; and to promote such mutual understanding among various groups as would tend to remove prejudices and to increase tolerance and co-operative effort" were the purposes of the Institute planning committee. Such purposes readily will be seen to be educational in the better sense and not propagandist. The Institute as such was not constituted to recommend or to take action, but rather to afford opportunity for study of fact, and for interchange of pertinent points of view. It was not committed to any dogma or doctrine, but left individuals and groups to form their own conclusions, develop their own attitudes, make their own decisions and formulate their own plans in the light of the facts revealed.

Hence their are no resolutions to report as a result of the Institute. But many persons have testified to realization of the purposes laid down. They carry deeper insights into the nature and causes of the present social structure; they are more aware of the difficulties and complexities, less sure of single simple remedies, and at the same time more convinced of the need of improvement; more than ever committed to the cause of working for a better, a more Christian, a more "Kingdom," will on earth; and more willing to pull together to bring it about. Probably the most valuable result of the Institute is the sense of personal goodwill and respect for others of differing belief as to method of bringing about a better world which was born and nurtured during a great two weeks of friendly search together, among individuals of widely differing background, education, temperament, and institutional affiliations.

COMMENTS AND IMPRESSIONS

The Couchiching Institute was a natural sequence to the Toronto and Cleveland Conferences of last year and an effort on the part of the Association to face up further to the obvious needs, economic and international, of the present difficult world situation.

The Conference was notable in bringing together under particularly favorable and intimate conditions, representatives of so many different groups of thought and of economic interest. It was thus especially stimulating to understanding and appreciation of other points of view, and to concern respecting one's social responsibilities.

If Christian organizations do not strive to promote greater understanding and friendship among nations, and to foster regard for human values in industry, such as greater security of employment, to what agencies is a distressed world to look for help? The great Commandments, we are told, are to "Love God and our Neighbor." The Y.M.C.A. accordingly concerns itself with both the upreach and the outreach of religion and in this Couchiching Conference, as I see it, was giving earnest attention to some of these outreach responsibilities especially.

I am satisfied that things happened at this Institute. One of the business men present said "Devils (of lack of appreciation of other points of view) were cast out of me." Another delegate with leanings to the **left** spoke of the "delightful Christian attitude" of a strongly-**conservative** delegate which had "won him the hearts of every one." That sort of process and outcome brings the brotherhood of man by so much nearer!

Another business man, a University of Toronto graduate, said at the close of one discussion period, "I have not been much interested in the Y.M.C.A. but if this is the kind of thing it is doing, I am for it."

I am hopeful that the same type of Conference locally may be held by Associations all over Canada and with the same type of barrier-removing results.

R. G. DINGMAN,
Chairman, Executive Committee,
National Council.

The Canadian Institute on Economic and International Affairs, held at Lake Couchiching, August 15th-27th, 1932, was in my opinion a very much worthwhile undertaking of the National Council of the Y.M.C.A.s of Canada.

No words can overstate the seriousness of the present situation, nationally and internationally, and while there appears to be no clear road pointing to the "Promised Land," I feel that each group in our complex society must contribute to the solution of the problem. This Institute gave me great hope that this is possible and for that reason, I feel that the 1932 gathering should be looked upon as but a beginning.

The Institute settled nothing. No resolutions were passed, but I believe much good was accomplished. The fact that people of such divergent views worked and studied together harmoniously for two weeks was not without significance. Those participating separated with a much broader conception of the problems involved as well as a much more comprehensive understanding of the various remedies suggested for our social and economic ills.

A group of Y.M.C.A. lay leaders held special sessions during the first week-end of the Conference and made valuable contributions to the general discussion Anyone listening in to these discussions would be impressed with the fact that leading Y.M C.A. laymen, as well as Secretaries, are keenly alive to social and economic problems confronting us and are able and willing to give leadership in solving our difficulties.

W. C. REAN,
Director, Y.M.C.A., London, Ont.

I came away from the Conference very much impressed, and felt that the effort on the part of the National Council was very much worth while. The widely varying view points of those taking part in the discussion were most interesting and informing, and I had the feeling that such a Conference should make us all realize that there are always two sides to every question. The opportunity afforded by the National Council at this Conference made it possible to exchange views that undoubtedly should be very helpful to all those who attended, and possibly may have the effect of bringing wide divergent views more closely together to the common good of Canada as a whole.

ELLIS H. JONES,
President, Y.M.C.A., St. Catharines.

In the first place it was significant that such a Conference was held at all. The holding of the Institute alone, was an admission that all is not well with society. In the next place it was significant that the Institute was held under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A. and that other organizations of the Christian church were represented.

These organizations in the past have done very valuable work, but perhaps it is not unfair to say that they have been altogether too much inclined to follow the dangerous advice, "stick to your knitting." The ideals of "love and brotherhood" have been largely sidetracked because they do not seem to harmonize with modern capitalism and nationalism. We repeat the Lord's Prayer so often and so flippantly that we fail to grasp its implications. "Thy will be done on earth," is a condemnation of the injustices inherent in our present social system and a challenege to the Christian church to give leadership in a program of social reconstruction.

In Russia the church as constituted gave no such leadership and as a result it became discredited and is now only a negligible force in a population of one hundred and eighty millions. In Western Europe and America opportunity for leadership in social reconstruction is knocking at the door of the Christian church. If it has the courage of its convictions it will lead the way toward a Christian social order.

The Institute was a first step forward. It was an indication that the Y.M.C.A. and other religious organizations are becoming bolder, and instead of "sticking to their knitting," are beginning to "broaden out" and to realize their responsibilities in seeking a solution for the world's social, economic and international problems.

E. D. Mac INNES,
High School Teacher, Toronto.

There was a growing realization throughout of the intricacy of the causes underlying the present world situation; of the radical changes necessary and of the long road that must be climbed to recovery and of our responsibility in the situation. Men to whom any trace of complacency hung, were shaken free from this comforting cloak.

Greater understanding between men of wide religious differences and deeper appreciation of the sincerity and earnestness of the other fellow was evident. The Y M.C.A. movement undoubtedly gained in prestige among Institute members through this better understanding of its motives and attitudes and because of the part it had played in promoting the Institute.

The general high level of interest throughout was indicated by the splendid attendance at all sessions. the wide-spread participation and the keen informal discussions that crowded recreation into the background during the free afternoon hours.

A rather unusual feature was the obvious desire for factual data rather than for group thinking that would lead to conclusions. In the Round-Tables a special chairman who would steer the discussion to a conclusion was not desired, rather that the lecturer of the preceding period act as chairman and thus be in a position freely to give further information.

The measure of success attending the Institute this year, which seems to warrant its continuance in 1933, also warrants a much greater attendance of Y.M.C A. men. They would have an experience eminently worth while. Furthermore, we should realize that the Institute is **ours** even if it is shared with others and that the value of many good things is inherent in the sharing.

T. A. DIMOCK,
General Secretary, Y.M.C.A., St. Thomas.

RECREATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The Couchiching Institute on Recreational Leadership was an innovation justified by its success.

Recreation is a vitally important factor in our lives these days of increasing amounts of leisure time, both accustomed and undesired. For those whose lot imposes work that is drudgery and monotony, and who need escapes, compensations, and the restoring of zest, the wholesome uses of spare time are important. And for those, and they are all too many, who have no employment, the creative uses of this enforced leisure are their very life. No more important problem faces society than the maintenance of morale among the masses of people during such times of unprecedented stress. We saw its value through our own Association service overseas during the War.

The program of the Recreation Institute was soundly conceived. Three main types of recreation were recognized: those demanding and rewarding physical strength and agility, such as athletics and competitive games; those which employ and develop

manual dexterity and creative art; and the social forms of relaxation in which large groups, both old and young, and of both sexes, can participate. That such a program was timely and very attractive was indicated by the large numbers of residents on the grounds, who had not come there because of the Institute yet who, when they observed the nature of the activities, enrolled and identified themselves with it.

To see husbands and wives, fathers and sons, mothers and daughters all working together in the improvised workshop over the boathouse was a sight to remember—and to ponder. For if the Association is to be as quick to sense need and opportunity in the future as it has been in the past it will have to face this challenge to give leadership in demonstrating the place, importance, and attractiveness of wholesome forms of recreation in which the whole family can join.

The belief was expressed by many that the Institute should be repeated next year, but that it should be twice as long,—two weeks instead of one.

Mr. Lynn Rohrbough, Director of Church Recreation Service, who, with Mr. R. C. Sidenius, led the section on social recreations has been secured for a series of one and two day institutes on adult recreation in Ontario and Quebec early in November. There are still one or two days available. Associations desiring to make use of a splendid opportunity to initiate this sort of service can secure particulars by writing Program Service, care of the National Council.

STUDY COURSES AND READING LIST

In a number of Associations groups of young men, and in some cases older business and professional men, have been formed to study the issues involved in the present world situation. The following courses and discussion outlines are recommended for use in this connection:

"Our Economic Life in the Light of Christian Ideals"—F. E Johnson, Association Press, cloth, $1.50, paper, 90c.

(Probably the best single study course in this field for our purpose. A very helpful discussion syllabus is provided but is so introduced as not to break the continuity of the book).

"Why are there Rich and Poor People?"—Abel J. Gregg, Association Press, 25c.

(An elementary illustrated and very attractively written study course on economic problems—particularly suitable for groups of high school boys and young people).

"Looking Forward"—The League for Industrial Democracy, New York, 15c.

(An excellent series of discussion outlines dealing with the building of a better society. There is a Preface by John Dewey).

"Disarmament" — Foreign Policy Association, New York.

(Deals with the more important issues of the disarmament question, and furnishes appropriate questions and books under each).

"The Message of Jesus for the Life of Today"—United Church of Canada.

(This book deals with a number of the more important phases of present day life from the Christian point of view. Some of the problems considered are: Personal Conduct, Marriage, The Family, Money, Country Life, The Economic Machine, Communism, War, The New World Order, etc. There are stimulating questions for discussion in each chapter).

Book List Suggested for Follow-up of Various Courses

"Problems of Peace"—5th Series, Oxford Press. 6th Series, Allen, Unwin.

"Political Myths and Political Realities"—de Laisi.

"International Government" — Mower—Copp, Clark.

"The New British Empire"—Elliott—McGraw, Hill.

"Canada in World Politics"—Corbett & Smith—Macmillan.

"Canada"—Alexander Brady, 1932.

"Agriculture and Industry in China"—Tawney—Institute of Pacific Relations.

"Religion and the Rise of Capitalism"—Tawney.

"Protestanism and the Spirit of Capitalism"——Weber.

"The Modern State"—R. M. MacIver.

"Work and Wealth"—Hobson.

"Recovery, The Second Effort"—Salter.

"Essays in Persuasion"—Keynes.

"After the Deluge"—Wolf.

Comparisons not Odious but Stimulating

The following comparative tables showing statistically some features of Association work in Canada compiled from the latest reports submitted by each local Association for Year Book use, will prove interesting and revealing to both employed officers and members of Boards and Committees.

The figures in both tables which are reproduced are taken from the last annual local Association reports sent to the National office and transferred to the International Bureau of records for Year Book publication.

The circumstances and conditions in each centre are so variable that exact and scientific measures cannot be equally applied, but there are enough likenesses in cities of similar size to give zest to seeing how they "line up" one with the other.

In table No. 1 the decline in total membership percentage does not appear to be unduly large in the past year of depression but the situation should be compared with 1929 which was probably the best Association year for a decade. It is interesting to note the steady reduction in the numbers of those in the higher age group, the rise except for the past year in the young men's age group is probably in keeping with increased emphasis at that point and the increase in the lowest age group and the apparent decrease in the boys' group 12 - 17 years.

TABLE No. 1

Comparative movement membership strength

	1929	1930	1931	1932
25 years and up	20,842	17,862	16,804	14,649
18-24 years	10,720	13,293	12,381	11,011
12-17 years	18,830	16,541	14,576	13,988
Under 12 years		5,147	5,126	5,402
Unclassified				887
Totals	50,392	52,843	48,887	45,937
Membership fees	$351,600	$364,700	$351,000	$317,698

In table No. II it is evident that the ratio of members in a community is as a rule highest in the smallest community and decreases steadily as the population increases. Many factors account for this condition including a lesser number of agencies serving the interests of boys and men in smaller centres, geographical compactness and usually a greater degree of racial and religious similarity. Does it not indicate the significance of the smaller field and illustrate the splendid possibility of influencing and serving a larger section of the community?

It should be noted that in the total population are included all classes and creeds and that in some centres the proportion of those of other than those of Protestant faith is very large. The Association population computed as 30% of the total includes males of between the ages of 9 and 45 years and may by some be considered too large but even so it gives a standard base for study purposes.

The last two columns of table II are interesting and probably significant. Just how many members per employed officer would produce the most effective results is a subject for consideration, but it is evident that there is a wide spread, ranging from the lowest 123 to the highest 373. The reasons for the differences existing might well be critically and constructively studied by local Associations.

TABLE No. II

Comparative Membership Study — 40 Local Associations
(Year Ending April 30, 1932)

Place	Total Population	Ass'n Population, 30% of Total Pop.	No. of Members	% of members per Ass'n Population	No. Emp'd Officers	No. members per Emp. Officer
Cobalt	4,500	1,050	230	21.9	1	230
Yarmouth	7,000	2,100	290	13.8	1	290
Midland	7,600	2,280	256	11.2	2	123
Orillia	8,100	2,430	497	20.4	2	248
Woodstock	11,000	3,300	285	8.6	2	142
Belleville	12,000	3,600	388	10.7	2	194
Charlottetown	12,000	3,600	510	14.1	2	255
Lethbridge	12,000	3,600	358	9.9	2	179
Stratford	12,000	3,600	360	10.	2	180
St. Thomas	16,000	4,800	392	8.1	2	196
Galt	17,000	5,100	400	7.8	2	200
Brandon	18,000	5,400	511	9.4	3	170
Guelph	21,000	6,300	639	10.4	2	319
Moose Jaw	21,000	6,300	703	11.1	2	351
Peterborough	21,000	6,300	818	12.9	3	272
Kingston	23,000	6,900	349	5.	2	174
Sault Ste. Marie	23,500	7,050	332	4.7	1	332
New Westminster	23,500	7,050	604	8.5	3	201
Saskatoon	26,000	7,800	991	12.7	3	330
Brantford	30,000	9,000	850	9.4	3	283
Ft. William	30,000	9,000	612	6.8	1	612
Moncton	30,000	9,000	601	6.6	2	300

TABLE No. II

Comparative Membership Study — 40 Local Associations
(Year Ending April 30, 1932)

Place	Total Population	Ass'n Population, 30% of Total Pop.	No. of Members	% of members per Ass'n Population	No. Emp'd Officers	No. members per Emp. Officer
St. Catharines	33,500	10,050	834	8.3	4	208
Kitchener	40,000	12,000	1,041	8.6	4	260
Sherbrooke	45,000	13,500	467	3.4	2	233
Regina	60,000	18,000	1,120	6.2	3	373
Saint John	60,000	18,000	1,164	6.4	4	291
Victoria	65,000	19,500	634	3.2	3	211
London	75,000	22,500	1,382	6.1	5	276
Halifax	77,000	23,100	706	3.	5	161
Edmonton	79,000	23,700	861	3.6	5	172
Calgary	82,000	24,600	1,009	4.1	4	252
Windsor	99,000	29,700	774	2.6	3	258
Quebec	123,000	34,900	684	1.9	3	228
Hamilton	150,000	45,000	2,530	5.6	8	316
Ottawa	160,000	48,000	2,221	4.6	7	333
Vancouver	300,000	90,000	1,016	1.1	7	145
Winnipeg	340,000	102,600	2,950	2.8	9	328
Toronto	870,000	251,000	7,916	3.1	31	255
Montreal	1,250,000	375,000	6,232	1.6	34	183
		1,221,710	44,478	3.6		

The International Year Book now on the press will give factual material in a great variety of areas and no student of our movement can afford to be without it as a reference and programme tool.

SUGGESTIONS FOR LOCAL CONFERENCES UPON ECONOMIC ISSUES

Obviously, here is an area of need which challenges the best in us. Can we build an economic world according to the principles and ideas of Jesus?

The first question the program committee must face is, from what viewpoint shall the problem be attacked? It seems quite clear that we should not propagandize for any method of social control, as socialism, communism, or capitalism. This cannot help but load the situation. The consideration should be on the side of what Jesus has to say about poverty and wealth; about the rich and the poor. We are eager to promote the Christian ideal in all phases of life and in the economic area especially in these conferences.

Also, we need to keep in mind that the test of any system lies with the quality of folk who are the leading spirits in it. We will need Christians in order to get a Christian economic order.

The treatment of any kind of a significant problem involves more than one session. For example, one leader worked with a group on the liquor problem in a continuous quest that extended over a period of thirteen weeks. In fact, there were times when the group adjourned to study to get at facts. It proved to be a thrilling experience. At the end of that period, each member had a clear idea of what he thought and what he was going to do with respect to the liquor problem.

Such a conference affords a chance to help young people and their leaders see where religion enters into a group process. So often the group work in our Associations is little more than group talk. The spiritual level is not reached—religion never becomes meaningful in the area of the issue at hand. No technique is more subtle and more difficult. But it is one which the religious leader must master.

Some of the Principles

1. The conference should be at least one day in length. It will be much more ideal, if it can be longer, running from Friday night through to Sunday afternoon or evening. The more time available the better, of course. If we are going to attack the problem, let us get a good toe-hold.

2. Leadership should be chosen very carefully. Leaders need to be fair and thoroughly constructive.

3. The conference should be largely a training enterprise. That is, the delegates should be helped to see the issues involved in the problem. Get some experience in dealing with these issues, and become acquainted with sources so that they can go back to their churches and put on a real consideration of the issue. After all, there is not time in the conference to deal with the issues adequately. So the conference should train folk to carry on the considerations in the local church.

4. The conference should provide a spiritual experience. Young people need to be brought to grips with Jesus Christ. They need God.

5. Finally, there should be adequate sources available. This is very important.

Out of the opening session there should come some live problems and issues with varying points of view which would be selected by smaller groups as the bases of their deliberations; these might include such problems as the following:

a. What does Jesus have to say on the question of poverty and riches?
b. What is the meaning of money?
c. What are wrong ways to make money? Right ways?
d. Modern young people and money.
e. What can be done to remove poverty?
f. What are some proposed solutions for unemployment?
g. What would a Christian social order be like?

The program should include some services of worship and opportunity for fellowship and fun.

The closing session should be given over to a forum on how to launch a consideration of the conference's determinations in the Association or the community. This session should be as practical as possible. Some one should be prepared to give a careful summary of this discussion with a view to outlining some very definite steps the delegates may take in making the proposals effective.

Resource Materials

Suggestions for study and reading related to economic issues on Page 4.

"FOUNDERS DAY" IN TORONTO

The young men of the Toronto Association exemplified the spirit of the youth George Williams as they organized and conducted a "Founders Day" celebration at the Central Branch, Tuesday evening, October 11th.

Youth took the initiative, youth accepted the responsibilities of promotion and program, while the Board of Governors and the members of the Branch Boards of Directors enthusiastically rallied to the support of the young men by their presence.

Over 500 persons crowded the gymnasium at the Central Building for the anniversary dinner. Seldom has any meeting been graced by so many of Toronto's distinguished citizens. Among the guests were Hon. George S. Henry, Premier of Ontario; Hon. W. G. Martin, Hon. Leopold Macaulay, and a score of the city's leading business men.

Canon Allan P. Shatford, of Montreal, was introduced by the youthful Chairman, James Hawkins. In his address "Examining the Foundations," the distinguished speaker emphasized the four corner stones upon which the Young Men's Christian Association was built:

1. The sense of need;
2. The sovereign power of Jesus Christ to meet that need;
3. The sense of avocation to carry that power to the needs of humanity;
4. The spirit of fellowship.

There is no building so great but these foundations will suffice—they will carry the burden of passing centuries though you build as high as the stars.

The Chairman reviewed the passing years of the Toronto Association and introduced to the gathering some of the "Founders" who had served the Association so faithfully down through the years. The three oldest living members of the Toronto Association were introduced—J. J. Gartshore, who has served on the Board of Directors since 1875; H B. Gordon, who was appointed to the Board in 1877 and Wm. Garside, appointed in 1881.

Other "Founders" who were honored were Charles and T. Rolph Chapman, who have conducted a Boys' Bible Class at the West End Branch for thirty consecutive years; T. D. Patton, who was a member of the first basketball team ever organized; Taylor Statten, founder of Y.M C.A. Boys' Clubs in Toronto; and J. H. Crocker, founder of the Toronto Leaders' Corps.

Twenty-six young men of as many nationalities showed by their presence and participation that the Association is a world-wide fellowship. Leonard Dixon and T. D. Patton, of India; and John Geldart, of China, represented the virile leadership the Association is sending the youth of other lands.

A boy, the youngest member of the Association, was presented to the gathering to typify the great group of boys in training for Christian service who will carry the Association work forward to meet the needs of the youth of tomorrow.

A fitting climax was the address of Clifford Thompson, a senior high school student. He said in part:

> "Because it was built on the foundation of love, unselfishness and fellowship, the Association grew from small beginnings until it is essentially an international movement. We thank God for that young man George Williams who conceived an idea to meet the needs of youth of his time. It is a challenge for our leaders to adapt themselves to the conditions which concern young men today. The world needs the Young Men's Christian Association. As an outstanding peace organization it has turned a tremendous amount of racial prejudice into brotherly love. If war is to cease an untold number of man-made barriers must be changed into God-made international bridges. While Christian doctrines need not be taught less, Christian principles must be practiced more in all our social relationships. We thank the "Founders" who have held high the torch of love and fellowship. As young men we take it from them with a determination to keep the light burning so that generations to come may find the way."

"Faith of our fathers, holy faith,
We will be true to thee till death."

WITH THE RAILWAY MEN

Visits to Local Associations

Since the first of September the Railroad Secretary has visited the following Associations—Bridgeburg, Niagara Falls, Pt. St. Charles, Rouses Point, Portland, Durand, Port Huron, Sarnia, Kenora, Ignace, Schreiber, White River, Chapleau and Cartier. In ten of these fields meetings were held with the Committee of Management fundamentally to check up on the business operations and program features. We are glad to report that in spite of very trying conditions the showing is on the whole encouraging.

Cooperation of Railway Officials

Much credit for the continuing strength and effectiveness of our work on the railroads is due to the personal interest and constant practical cooperation of the railway officials of all ranks. Just recently Mr. T. Hambley, General Superintendent, C.P.R., North Bay, together with District and Division officers, joined with the Railroad Secretary in a visit to the four Associations on the Algoma District.

Fall Meeting of National Railroad Executive Committee

On September 12th a meeting of this Committee was held in the Board Room of the Central Y at Montreal.

The Committee made a careful analysis of the standing of each local Association on both railway systems and were gratified with the results.

A special feature of the meeting was the introduction of the new Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee whose personnel represents both Railways. Mr. Hodge, the retiring chairman, referred to the desirability of rotating the members of the Committee in office and referred to the appointment by the National Council Executive Committee of Mr. A. J. Hills as Chairman of the Railroad Department Committee and of Mr. H. J. Humphrey to the Vice-Chairmanship, and in well-chosen words introduced the new officers of the Committee.

The following resolution of appreciation to the Retiring Chairman, presented by Mr. Hills, was heartily endorsed by a standing vote:

"As this is the first meeting since the establishment of this Committee seven years ago which has not been presided over by Mr. Hodge, except on the one or two occasions when he was absent through illness, it is fitting to express on behalf of the members of the Committee the appreciation of the splendid contribution made by Mr. Hodge to the work entrusted to this Committee during the entire period of his Chairmanship. The period has embraced good times and bad but Mr. Hodge's effort has been consistently good. He has devoted considerable time to the work. His actions have indicated that they were based on careful thought. His counsel has been wise and his leadership courageous. The two Young Men's Conferences, which were held during Mr. Hodge's chairmanship at Montreal and Winnipeg, under very different conditions, were most successful contributions to the work as applied to these employees and admittedly highly beneficial to the Railways. Much credit for their success is due to Mr. Hodge.

"On account of the high esteem in which Mr. Hodge is held by the members of this Committee and the regard they have for the service he has rendered during his term of office, I am asking the Secretary to record a motion endorsing what I have read to you if you will join in passing this unanimously by a rising vote."

In replying, Mr. Hodge referred to the pleasure it had afforded him to serve as Chairman of the Committee in the cause of the Railway men and their families as represented by the work of the Y.M.C.A., and thanked the members of the Committee for their full co-operation. He wished the incoming officers every success and assured them of his full support.

19th International Conference Railroad Y.M.C.A.'s November 16-18, 1932

The International Transportation Committee and staff, after much careful study, decided some little time ago that it was very essential to hold the Triennial Conference, which is due to take place this year because of changing conditions in the transportation industry which have raised problems of an extraordinary kind.

This meeting will be held in the new Railroad Y.M.C.A. building in New York City, November 16 to 18. It is expected that about three hundred carefully selected delegates representing the work on 50 railroads of the continent will attend and give three days to an intensive study of the paramount issues.

COUCHICHING, 1932

The three Church training schools, the Institute on Recreational Leadership and the Institute on Economic and International Affairs furnished the basis of the summer program this year. These were all well attended and all had significant programs.

In addition to these events, there were conferences of various Y.M.C.A. groupings: The Young Men's Council of Ontario, the Ontario Leaders' Corps, the National Council Executive and key men of the Ontario Associations and the National Council staff.

The thirty-seven cottages were fully occupied in August and a number of the cabins and tents were used by families; in July, however, there were a few vacant cottages.

The spirit of the cottagers' community was all that could be desired. Their program included picnics, a hobby show for the children, camp fires, frolics, and many interesting holiday events, arranged by the cottagers' committee.

A trained nurse was employed this year. This proved to be an excellent arrangement both for the medical services and the care of the small children.

It is of interest that the financial statement shows a small surplus after covering all of the operating costs and all of the carrying charges; in view of the conditions, this is considered to be an excellent showing.

Plans are now being considered for the season 1933. The Annual reunion of the Couchiching family will be held in Toronto on February 11th.